

14. (Amended) An evanescent optical head for reading/writing of data from/to a recording medium using evanescent light, the evanescent optical head being equipped with a semiconductor laser for emitting the evanescent light that has a [laser beam-emitting end facet] laser beam-emitting facet including a light-emitting region and comprises a three-dimensional feature portion formed on the [laser beam-emitting end facet] laser beam-emitting facet, a light shielding film covering at least the light-emitting region, and a small opening for emitting the evanescent light formed in the light-shielding film at a location to have a prescribed positional relationship with the three-dimensional feature portion.

In the Abstract

Please amend the Abstract as indicated below. Pursuant to 37 CFR. 1.121(c), a clean copy of the abstract as amended is attached.

"A semiconductor laser for emitting evanescent light that has a [laser beam-emitting end facet] laser beam-emitting facet including a light-emitting region is constituted to comprise a three-dimensional feature portion formed on the [laser beam-emitting end facet] laser beam-emitting facet, a light-shielding film covering at least the light-emitting region, and a small opening for emitting the evanescent light formed in the light-shielding film at a location to have a prescribed positional relationship with the three-dimensional feature portion.

The presence of the three-dimensional feature portion enables the small opening to be formed precisely with respect to the light-emitting region by a simple operation.

REMARKS

This pre-examination amendment is to correct a typographical error that was made when a particular term to identify an element used throughout the specification and claims